## Interpellation.

i. e. as. 3 p. 2 *per diem*, the minimum daily wages of an ordinary cooly at present being not less than annas eight ;

(*c*) that their educational qualification is the same as that of those employed in the Departmental Schools whose minimum pay at present is Rs 12; and

(*d*) that they have no pension or bonus to look for, that they are not allowed any sort of leave with pay and that they are not even secure in their place at present, as the managers often turn them out of service at their will and pleasure ?

(ii) If they are so aware, do they propose to do anything in the direction of encouraging the teachers by arranging for adequate pay and other privileges being given to them and thus to relieve these thousands of unhappy yet useful individuals from their present miserable lot, in the interests of mass-education in the State ?

*Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai for Mr. S. Adam Sait.*

4. (*a*) Is it a fact that the manufacture of salt in the old factories is declining ? If so, have the Government consulted any expert to find out the cause of such decline ?

(*b*) What are the rates fixed by the Government for home and foreign salt to be sold in the various depôts of the State per bag of 2 maunds?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of the fact that salt is sold in the State by merchants at higher rates than the Government rates ? If so, what action has been taken by the authorities concerned to check such sale ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the system of selling salt in retail in the Bankshalls, which was more convenient and profitable to the people and to the Government, was stopped ?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to resume the old system of retail sales of salt in the different depôts, which would be very beneficial to the people and the Government ?

## Answer.

now before Government is that the grant-in-aid given by them towards the pay of such teachers is Rs. 6 per month per head.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Government have no information.

(ii) The question of improving the position of the teachers in aided schools is one for the consideration of the managers of those institutions.

4. (*a*) Yes. The Government have examined the question departmentally, and in the light of the information before them, they do not consider that consultation with an expert is called for.

(*b*) The following are the selling prices fixed by the Government for home and foreign salt in the various depôts of the State :—

| Name of depot. | Kind of salt. | Price per bag of two maunds. |
|---|---|---|
| | | Rs. as. p. |
| Quilon. | Tuticorin. | 4 4 0 |
| Alleppey. | Bombay. | 5 7 0 |
| | Home. | 4 6 0 |
| Munambam. | Bombay. | 4 4 0 |

(*c*) Yes. The retail rates at which merchants sell salt must necessarily be higher than the wholesale rates at which salt is sold to them at the Government depôts.

(*d*) The system referred to was given up because, in the opinion of the Government, it was neither convenient nor profitable to the public and also because the Government did not wish to maintain a monopoly in the sales of salt.

(*e*) In view of the answer to question 4 (*d*), Government do not propose to resume the retail sale of salt.

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## Interpellation.

(*f*) Are the Government aware that, on account of the non-storage of salt from last year at the Trivandrum Port Salt Depôt, the few selected merchants are forced to get salt from the factories by carts, paying high charges, etc., who consequently demand high price from the people ?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to transport salt profitably by sea and store it at the Trivandrum Depôt and thus relieve the people from paying unnecessarily high prices?

(*h*) Is it not a fact that the Salt Depôt Officers are issuing salt only to their few selected men, to which cause are attributed the high prices prevailing now in the markets of the State ? If so, will the Government be pleased to remove such unnecessary restrictions ?

(*i*) Are the Government aware that the salt now manufactured and sold in the market is of questionable quality and that there is a widespread feeling that it is unfit for human consumption ?

(*j*) Have the Government enquired into the reason for the excess of salt sometimes found in some depôts of the State after accurate weighments have been made to the purchasers ? If so, what are those reasons ?

(*k*) Will the Government be pleased to authorise the Port Salt Depôt Officers to issue salt to the people on receiving its cost in cash without insisting on the existing *chellan* system which puts the purchasers to considerable difficulties and inconvenience.

5. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many appointments were made during the last six years in the various Departments of the State and how many were given to Mahomedans, in accordance with the Government Circular sent to the Heads of Departments, directing them to give preferential treatment to Muslim applicants for posts ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the claims of Sahib Bahadur V. Chandamiah, the only Mahomedan officer found in the "list of officers of the State drawing salaries of Rs. 150 and above" and the legitimate claimant and senior officer by reason of his long and remarkable service in the Excise Department, have been overlooked in filling up the permanent vacancy of the Excise Commissionership of the State ?

(*c*) Are all the appointments and promotions made after 1914 in conformity with the rules prescribed by the Government in the Public Service Notification dated the 18th May 1914 ?

(*d*) Have the Government made any appointments and promotions by granting exemptions from the educational qualifications required as *per* the aforesaid rules ? If so, how many, and of those how many were in favour of Mahomedans ?

## Answer.

(*f*) & (*g*) The matter is being examined.

(*h*) No. Salt is issued freely to anybody that pays for it.

(*i*) The answer is in the negative.

(*j*) Excesses are sometimes reported. The large weighing machines used in taking delivery from contractors do not register small differences and these machines have to be used many times over.

(*k*) As in the opinion of the Government the relaxation of the present rules would open the way to malpractices, the Government do not propose to take the action suggested by the member.

5. (*a*), (*c*) & (*d*). As in the opinion of the Government the labour involved in the compilation of the statistics asked for would be disproportionate to the value of the information to be obtained, the Government do not propose to call for the information required by the member. With regard to clause (*a*) it is pointed out that the Circular was issued five and not six years ago; and with regard to clause (*d*) the member is informed that exemptions from the possession of the educational qualifications have been granted in a few cases.

(*b*) When making an appointment, Government choose the person who in their opinion is the most suitable for the place. Government do not propose to discuss the reasons guiding them in the making of any particular appointment.

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